[Sri P. Kakkan]

has already issued instructions both in English and in Tamil, regarding the safety measures and engineering guidance to be followed by the staff to avert accidents. All possible safety measures and engineering guidance had been already there and there was no failure on the part of the Department. The present mishap was only providential and was not due to any lack of precautions.

It is reported that the Contractor, who had engaged the deceased labourers, has paid compensation to the families of three deceased workers at the rate of Rs. 100. The accident had been reported to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for taking further action in the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

(1) FAILURE TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ELECTRICITY WORKERS IN KUNDAH AND THE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri N. K. Palanisami with regard to a matter of what he thinks urgent public importance, viz., the "failure of the Government to settle the dispute between the Electricity workers in Kundah and the State Electricity Board which resulted in lathi charge and the arrest of workers and the Secretary of the National Project Workers' Union, Kundah". I have already ruled a similar motion out of order a few days ago. I would like to remind the hon. Members in this connection that Rule 50 (viii) clearly lays the restriction, viz., "The matter to be discussed must involve more than the ordinary administration of the law." Surely, maintenance of law and order cannot be made the subject-matter of an adjournment motion to be discussed on the floor of this House. I agree with the hon. Members that it is unfortunate that there are labour-management differences. But, how to solve those differences is the question. There are other ways to settle those disputes and differences. There is conciliation, there is the Tribunal, there are the Labour Officers, there is the High Court and there is also the Supreme Court. This Assembly cannot be made the forum for settling labour-management disputes. I have been repeating this time and again. But, the hon. Members do not seem to appreciate my difficulties in the matter. If the hon. Members repeat this practice, I am sorry I will rule such motions out of order in my Chamber itself and will not bring those motions before the House and also will not read them to the House. I rule the motion out of order.

(2) LOCK-OUT IN THE PARAVAI MILLS, MADURAI.

MR. SPEAKER: I have also received notice of another adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri V. K. Kothandaraman to discuss a matter of what he thinks urgent public importance, viz., the lock-out in the Paravai Mills, Madurai, and the consequent unrest among the workers. Rule 50 (x) lays down the restriction that the "motion must refer to a matter in which the responsibility of the Government is clearly involved". How can we say that the Government are responsible for the lock-out in a private mill? What I have stated in respect of the other motion applies to this case also. The Assembly cannot be made a forum for settling labour-management disputes. Therefore, I rule this motion also out of order. I must

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tell the hon. Members that I have been very lenient in these matters. If, however, the hon. Members repeat this practice, I will rule the motions out of order in my Chamber itself and will not bring them before the House.

V.—INFORMATION *RE* THE STRENGTH OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Some of the Members of the Indian National Democratic Congress Legislature Party which has now merged with the Swatantra Party during the recent Tiruchirappalli Convention, have submitted their resignations from the Party and have also intimated the fact to you, Mr. Speaker. But so far, you have not taken any action . . .

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Anyway, let the hon. Member finish his point.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Since their number has been considerably reduced, we are very eager to know the position of the Main Opposition Party in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a point of order. If the hon. Member says that he is anxious to know the position, that is another thing and the answer to that is, 'Please wait and see !' (Laughter.)

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILLS

(1) THE COURTALLAM TOWNSHIP (VALIDATION OF TAXES AND LIBRARY CESS) BILL, 1960.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Sir, I beg to move—

" That leave be granted for the introduction the Courtallam Township (Validation of Taxes and Library Cess) Bill, 1960 [a] "

MR. SPEAKER: The question is—

" That leave be granted for the introduction of the Courtallam Township (Validation of Taxes and Library Cess) Bill, 1960 ."

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill is introduced.

VII.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1960-61.

DEMAND XXI—CO-OPERATION.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I move—

" That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rupees 1,87,92,800 under Demand XXI—Co-operation."

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, dated 25th April 1960.